

aim value is white, and the modification is made so that the reference value turns out to be white.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6-7 and 15-16 as follows:

6. (Amended) The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of inputting a predetermined value, and wherein the gradation conversion condition is so determined as to harden and soften a tone of the image expressed by the digital image data based on the predetermined value.

7. (Amended) The image processing method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the steps of displaying the image expressed by the digital image data on a display means and inputting an instruction from outside based on the displayed image, and wherein the density conversion condition is determined by the instruction inputted from outside based on the displayed image.

15. (Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10 or 11, further provided with means for inputting a predetermined value, and wherein the gradation conversion condition is so determined as to harden and soften a tone of the image expressed by the digital image data based on the predetermined value.

16. (Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10 or 11, further comprising a display means for displaying the image expressed by the digital image data, and

input means for inputting an instruction from outside based on the displayed image, and wherein

*AS
and* said density conversion condition determining means determines the density conversion

condition by the instruction inputted from outside on the basis of the displayed image.
